

# SQUIRE JOHN

## A TALE OF THE CUBAN WAR

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### CHAPTER XXI.

#### A Goddess of Battle.

The retreat of the Spanish troops from the scene of the dynamite wreck, back over the five or six miles separating them from the slope where the stranded ammunition car is settled, has been accomplished in an almost incredibly short space of time, for the vigor of Gomez's attacks has kept them constantly on the jump.

Jack and Smithers have hastily formed a plan of action. They are resolved to take no part in the inevitable conflict that must be fought round the carriage, unless actually forced to do so by their determination to protect the ladies; and if circumstances render it necessary for them to enter the lists against all comers, they are just as ready to meet Spanish warriors or Cuban patriots as they have stood against guerrilleros.

The first man to reach the carriage is a tall captain, whose sprinting qualities have proven of no mean order—indeed, he is so easily able to out-distance all of his comrades that Jack in secret is ready to believe his athletic abilities must have been gained in the bull-ring eluding the mad rushes of an infuriated old toro.

As he comes up, he gasps out: "Senor, an axe—something to break open the door of the ammunition van. We have no cartridges; we will be annihilated unless our guns are made available."

So he chatters on, while gasping for breath, and continues to beg for an axe. Jack does not know where such an implement can be found, and as for Smithers, he would see the whole regiment in Guinea before he stirred a step to further their cause an iota.

Fortunately for the soldiers, they have a friend in Senor Roblado, who hardly relishes falling into the hands of Gomez in this way, though he had planned to visit the insurgent chief in his camp, with the secret hope of betraying him to the authorities.

He has discovered an axe in the guard's den, and this he eagerly tosses to the captain.

Then ensues as remarkable a moving panorama as Jack has ever seen. While the blows of the axe sound upon the barricaded doors of the other compartments, the Spanish soldiers have gathered around the carriage, many of them wounded, and yet showing no disposition to capitulate.

So Travers, while secretly opposed to the cause for which they fight, feels himself bound to admire the way in which these almost untrained recruits, but recently from across the sea, face death as it comes swooping down the slope.

The officer in command forms his men in a phalanx. Not a shot do they fire, because few guns contain a load, but with the grim front of veterans they await the descent of the hawk.

Again the hillside is covered with a rushing throng. Men come running down in squads and singly. They have no idea of order, or discipline either, just at present, as it is every man for himself. The soldiers are on the run, and these wild followers of Gomez mean to keep them moving until they are swallowed up in the sea of fire that sweeps over the Cuban chaparral, or kenneled in Havana.

Travers confesses to a tremendous interest in the outcome; he believes they will be safe once the battle is over, no matter who wins, as Smithers is surely on one side, while Senor Roblado covers the other. It is only the



"Look!" cries Jack, hoarsely. "See a girl among them!"

danger that must threaten while the warfare is on that gives him cause for mental anxiety.

He has not long to wait for the shock.

A few shots are fired as the patriots dash down the hill, but it is possible that their ammunition has also run short, or else they determine to cleave a passage through the ranks of the foe with their gleaming and terrible machetes.

Now they engage with the soldiers. The line wavers before the furious attack and partially gives way. What follows seems to be a melee. The soldiers are divided into small groups, and fight desperately. Sometimes they chase the insurgents, and again it is the rebels who have the best of it.

Numbers of the rebels are mounted, and while these are effective weapons in a hand-to-hand encounter, they are of no use whatever at a distance.

So the revolutionists melt away, some passing up the rise and others plunging into the shelter of the woods, as yet untouched by the fingers of the fire king.

Jack heaves a sigh of relief. He has seen that the white horse and its lovely rider have been almost miraculously spared through the fierce rattle of musketry that ended the affair, and the last glimpse which he obtains of them is when, outlined against the heavens, Lola Montez, on the hilltop, waves her hat from the end of the machete she carries.

And yet Jack Travers turns from contemplating her heroic deeds to the gentle girl of Edinburgh with a positive satisfaction.

One may admire a modern Joan of Arc, and be enthralled by her presence as she leads soldiers in battle; but when it comes to the choice of a wife, the average male biped is very apt to turn aside and take to his heart some loving girl who will make his home a dream of peace and cheerfulness rather than a warlike camp.

But Jessie Cameron does not know



There is a brief but terrific struggle, what Jack's thoughts are. She has sunk back behind the barricade, as if fearful lest some flying bullet might find its way through the frail side of the carriage, when in reality she desires to shut out the sight of Jack and the little Cuban beauty together.

The battle is won. At least, the rebels have ceased to harass the troops, and the latter are enabled to take stock of their losses, which, counting dead, wounded, and missing, amount to almost half the original force.

As a further retreat to Havana is rendered utterly impossible by the blazing forest that bars their way, their only plan is to strengthen their present position and await the coming of dawn, when they may be able to figure on the future.

The rebels have not been gone more than half an hour when Smithers, who has been wandering around in his restless way, taking an observation, as he calls it, comes upon Jack as the latter sits upon the end of a railroad tie, meditating while indulging in a smoke, and the latter has only to take one quick look into the agent's sober face to realize that he carries more bad news.

(To be continued.)

#### DIFFICULT LAND TO REACH.

##### No Ships of Civilized Nations Make Trips to Greenland.

"No private vessel plies between Greenland and the rest of the world, either with passengers or cargo," writes Roger Pocock. "Of the Dundee whalers very few remain and if they happen to take fresh water on the Greenland coast, their stay is limited—a matter of hours. Ten years ago some fishing schooners of Gloucester, Mass., frequented the Greenland banks, but after a couple of seasons found that the halibut catch was not to be relied on. In 1894 the *Miranda*, an American steamer, attempted a cruise with tourists, but was wrecked at the gate of the first harbor she tried to leave. She foundered at sea, but one of the fishing schooners brought her people home.

"Apart from Arctic expeditions no other foreign visitors have risked a voyage for about two centuries. The whaling ships are handled by experienced men, yet the *Vega* was nipped recently, her people barely escaping. For Arctic expeditions one ship lost in each twenty measures the scale of risk. Fog, ice-gack, bergs, currents and death-trap reefs bar out all casual shipping on pain of death.

"There also exists an excellent international treaty, whereby most Europeans and Americans are absolutely forbidden to enter Greenland. This treaty is enforced by Denmark on behalf of her royal trade, a government department, which is trying to save and civilize the native tribes of the country. By this means alone can the Eskimo people be shielded from disease, from alcohol and from interference with the hunting on which they depend for existence."

#### A Reasonable Claim.

"We'll dispense with your services, sir," said Mr. Merchant sternly. "I saw you coming out of a saloon today. I told you I'd discharge you for that, didn't I?"

"Why, no, sir," replied Galley, "you said you'd discharge me if you saw me going into one. I think I deserve some credit for coming out."—Philadelphia Press.

## LEGISLATURE of NEBRASKA

### A Synopsis of Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth General Session.

SENATE—The senate on the 28th was busy with passage of bills, among them being the following: S. F. 95, providing that judgments shall become dormant in five years. S. F. 36, providing that railroads shall keep open for the convenience of the public suitable waiting rooms at stations. S. F. 155, providing that it is unlawful to kill squirrels. S. F. 133, providing for appeals to the district court from the decision of a board of equalization. S. F. 55, providing that banks in towns of 400 shall have a capital stock of \$5,000. S. F. 139, providing that the number of pounds contained in a sack of flour or cereals shall be stamped on the outside of the sack. S. F. 181, allows road districts to vote a 25 mill levy for the improvement of roads. S. F. 76, Breesee's bill to divide the Fourteenth judicial district. H. R. 14, allows villages to buy land for parks. In the committee of the whole, with Epperson in the chair, the senate killed H. R. 29, the bill to pay for the bond of former Attorney General Prout. H. R. 118, the object of which is to do away with professional jurors, was recommended for passage. The bill to create a state board of pardons was indefinitely postponed.

HOUSE—The house on the 28th, the fortieth day of the session, passed these bills: H. R. 174, by Andersen of Douglas—A joint memorial to determine the true status of the Nebraska territorial militia. H. R. 179, by Douglas of Rock—Providing for salary of school superintendents in certain counties. H. R. 122, by McClay of Lancaster—Providing for burial of inmates of state institutions in the state cemetery at Lincoln. H. R. 129, by Dodge of Douglas—Providing for the detachment of unplatted land from corporate limits to exempt it from local taxes. Emergency, H. R. 194, by Rouse of Hall—Providing for the payment by counties of the premium on the bonds of the county treasurer where such bonds are executed by a surety company authorized by the laws of Nebraska to execute such bonds, such premium not in any instance to exceed 1/2 of 1 per cent per annum of the penalty stated in the bond. H. R. 224, by Peabody of Nemaha—Providing for the organization and government of drainage districts. H. R. 191, by McClay of Lancaster—To print all biennial state officers' reports in one compilation. A large number of bills were introduced, it being the last day for such opportunity. Among them were the following: S. F. 248, by Thomas of Douglas—To create a county comptroller. S. F. 249, by Shreck of York—To compel railroads to pay shrinkage on freight shipments. S. F. 253, by Lavery of Saunders—To amend game laws. S. F. 251, by Sheldon of Cass—Regulating tax sales. S. F. 252, by Sheldon—To abolish the Newbery maximum freight rate act.

SENATE—Members of the senate on the 1st took advantage of their last chance to introduce bills except through a personal message of the governor and handed in twenty measures, several of which will affect the corporations of the state. The South Omaha Stock Yards will have two measures to contend with, the one by Sheldon of Cass to make it unlawful for the company to charge more than 25 per cent above the market price for hay and corn and the other by Gould to compel the company to unload stock within one hour after receiving it or to pay damages to the amount of \$5 for each car for every hour or fraction of an hour over the stipulated time in which it has to be unloaded. The senate passed these bills: H. R. 97, 98, 99 and 100, by Clark of Douglas—Curative acts referring to costs, juries and changes of venue in justice courts. H. R. 118, to provide for the drawing of grand juries in Gage county. H. R. 204, to allow mutual insurance companies to withdraw securities deposited with the state auditor and deposit cash instead. In the committee of the whole with Epperson in the chair this morning S. F. 122 and 157 were recommended for passage. The former authorizes the canvass of the vote on constitutional amendments by the legislature and the latter is a measure which seeks to make the drainage law conform to the decision of the supreme court, which recently declared that a portion of it was invalid. At the afternoon session, with Beightel in the chair in committee of the whole, the bill by Cady of Howard, which interprets the constitution in its reference to property which is exempt from taxation was discussed at length, and finally passed over for further discussion.

HOUSE—The house on the 1st spent almost the entire day in committee of the whole on the salaries appropriation bill. It cut out of the bill the appropriation of \$5,000 to maintain the state architect's office, increased the salary of the pathologist at the Lincoln asylum from \$1,200 to \$1,500, raised the salary of the superintendent of the feeble-minded institute at Beatrice from \$2,000 to \$2,500, and increased the salaries of the two bookkeepers in the land commissioner's office from \$1,200 to \$1,500 each. Many bills were introduced, including the following: To repeal section 3 of the valued policy insurance law allowing attorney's fees to plain-

tiffs when they have recovered against an insurance company thereunder. To amend the law relating to the proceedings of commissioner with respect to drainage improvements. To provide for the appointment of county attorneys in counties of less than 2,500 population. To provide for the appointment and the payment of assistants for clerks of the district court in counties having over 30,000 and less than 60,000 inhabitants. To provide an appropriation of \$3,000 for a library for the officers and crew and marines of the battleship Nebraska. Relating to the procedure for collection of taxes on personal property under seizure by officers. A joint resolution to amend article 10 of the constitution of the state of Nebraska by adding thereto section 6, relating to municipal charters; gives cities of 5,000 or more the right to make their own charters. To regulate and fix the price of electric arc lights for the lighting of streets and alleys in metropolitan cities in Nebraska; limits cost of 2,000 candle power arc lights to \$50 a year. To provide means of warning public school teachers and owners of live stock in this state against approaching severe storms through co-operation of the state department of public instruction with the United States weather bureau; appropriates \$500. To abolish slot machines in Nebraska and to provide a penalty of imprisonment not less than one or more than three years. To require public officers to report all interest received upon public funds, and requiring detailed reports of fees.

SENATE—In the senate on the 2nd, the following bills were passed: H. R. 30, by Douglass of Rock—A bill to permit fraternal orders to incorporate. H. R. 56, by Burns—A bill codifying certain sections of the insurance statutes relating to filing securities with the auditor. H. R. 17, by Casebeer—A bill to authorize the use of the State university cash fund for the general uses of the university. H. R. 45, by Knox—A bill authorizing the Peru Normal to buy library books with matriculation fees. H. R. 27, which exempts cemeteries owned by private parties from taxation, was recommended for passage. H. R. 90—The bill provides that inheritance tax, now paid into the state treasury shall be paid to the counties in which money is collected and used in the improvement of the public highways. Recommended for passage. The senate indefinitely postponed Tucker's bill for a joint resolution calling for a constitutional convention. The vote was 2 to 9. S. F. 108—Providing for the selection of grand and petit jurors, was ordered presented for third reading. H. R. 61—To provide an appropriation for the burial of indigent soldiers was recommended for passage. The senate concurred in the action of the house in killing the emergency clause on S. F. 8, the county engineer bill, and also on the house amendments to S. F. 6, the juvenile court bill.

HOUSE—These bills were passed in the house on the 2d: Authorizing the State Board of Public Lands and Buildings to sell a section of school land to Daniel L. Johnson now occupied by him. The juvenile court bill. Appropriating \$35,000 for rebuilding the old wing of the Norfolk insane asylum. Appropriating \$32,000 for a fireproof library building at the Peru Normal school and a heating apparatus, sewer and steam tunnel connections. Giving the right of eminent domain to electric and interurban railway companies. To protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies and to prohibit the giving or receiving of rebates on the transportation of property. To prohibit shooting of English, China or Mongolian pheasants, English and Belgian partridges, English black cocks or any other imported bird. To permit owners of contracts for lease of educational lands to perfect their titles under the law in force prior to 1879. To give warehouses a lien on goods left with them. Authorizing appeals from county levies to the district court and emergency clause. To permit drainage by tiled or open ditch into national water courses. Changing the offering or giving of a bribe in jury cases from a misdemeanor to a felony. A recalled anti-policy and lottery bill, said to be directed against suit clubs and emergency clause.

SENATE—In the committee of the whole on the 3rd Cady of Howard succeeded in having recommended for passage S. F. 196, proposing a constitutional amendment for the election of a railroad commission of three members to be paid a salary of \$2,000 a year each. The committee recommended these bills for passage, including Cady's constitutional amendment providing for a railroad commission: S. F. 180—Making State Historical society custodian of records lying dormant for twenty years. S. F. 165—The veterinary surgeon bill. These bills were read a third time and passed; H. R. 27—Authorizing cemetery associations to buy land and exempting the same from taxation. H. R. 90—Providing the inheritance tax shall be paid into the counties where the tax was collected. Instead of being turned into the state treasury as at present. The money is to be used for the improvement of roads. H. R. 61—Appro-

propriating money for the burial of indigent soldiers. The senate voted to reconsider its action on H. R. 175, which it had previously indefinitely postponed. This bill provides that twenty people can organize a county agricultural association, hold a fair and secure an appropriation of 3 cents for each inhabitant. It applies to counties of over 40,000 and will be a great thing for the present Douglas County Agricultural Fair association and any other association which exhibits a few pumpkins or such like and calls the occasion a fair. H. R. 137, to allow townships in counties under township organization to vote a levy of 10 mills for road purposes was recommended for passage. S. F. 137, an amendment to the anti-trust law allowing individuals to bring suit in their own names, when aggrieved, instead of the attorney general or county attorney bringing the suit, was recommended for passage. S. F. 87, providing for payment of costs in misdemeanor cases, was recommended for passage.

HOUSE—The following bills were passed on the 3rd; H. R. 240, by the Lancaster delegation and Lee and Foster of Douglas, to prohibit the "oriental and muscular danger" known as hoochee-koochee; vote 62 to 30. H. R. 104, by Lee of Douglas, to prevent the sale or donation of opium, cocaine or morphine except on a physician's prescription. Emergency clause. H. R. 177, by Burgess of Lancaster, to provide for the funding of the outstanding school district bonds, rate of interest not to exceed 6 per cent. H. R. 221, by Muxen of Douglas, to regulate baby farms and provide a license. Emergency, S. F. 66, by Jones of Otoe exempting boundary streams from game and fish laws and permits seining in the Missouri river. Emergency clause. S. F. 62, by Measey of Dixon, regulating the admission to practice of attorneys-at-law. H. R. 156, by McMullen of Gage, providing for the organization, government and compensation of the state militia; increases adjutant general's salary to \$1,800 a year; quartermaster general's to \$1,000; gives each armory \$250 instead of \$100 a year rental, allows the men 25 cents for each drill, requiring them to drill at least twice a month and brings the law into conformance with the Dick law. Emergency clause. S. F. 9, by Thomas of Douglas, exempting from embezzlement an attorney or collector who may retain the amount of his fee or commission on a collection. S. F. 46, by Shreck of York, requiring railroads to give one round trip pass to a shipper of one car of horses or cattle, two cars of hogs or mixed stock. At 1:30, when the house convened after noon recess, it went into committee of the whole, with Jackson of Antelope in the chair. S. F. 1, by Thomas of Douglas, came up. It is the bill providing for two shifts of twelve hours each for the firemen. Clarke of Douglas offered an amendment to have the bill take effect only when ratified at the polls by a majority of the voters of Omaha after it had been submitted by a petition of 20 per cent of the voters. The amendment was adopted by 40 to 41. After considerable discussion, McClay of Lancaster moved to recommend the bill for passage as amended. Barnes said it might as well be killed, since the citizens of Omaha had no voice in these matters, as the governor appointed the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, which controlled the affairs of the firemen. Clarke disputed this. McClay's motion prevailed, and the house adjourned until Monday.

Use of Arbalast Once Forbidden. During the twelfth century the early arbalast or cross-bow, was considered such a deadly weapon when it was first introduced in warfare that its employment in war was forbidden among Christian nations, and it was not until the fourteenth century that it came into general use.

Wren-Foot Foremost. "I got out of bed this morning wrong-foot foremost, and so every thing has gone badly with me the whole day through!" Common enough it is to hear a man or woman say this, and believe it well nigh as literally as if, in thus doing it, either of the two had stepped on a tack—point up and head down—and so gone limping ever since, not to speak of dire apprehensions of lockjaw.

Every Day Celebrated as Sunday. Few people know that other days of the week than the first are being observed as Sunday by some nation or other. The Greeks observe Monday; the Persians, Tuesday; the Assyrians, Wednesday; the Egyptians, Thursday; the Turks, Friday; the Jews, Saturday; and the Christians, Sunday. Thus a perpetual Sabbath is being celebrated on earth.—Success Magazine.

Longest Straight Railway. The longest straight piece of railway line in the world is from Nymby to Mourke, in New South Wales. The railway runs 136 miles on a level in a perfectly straight line.

Black Tupil in Luzon. A black lily, or tulip, with a flower eight inches in diameter, has been found on the island of Luzon, in the Philippines.

Covetous Engineers. The civil engineer often wishes with a sigh that he were really merchant of all that he surveys.—Somerville Journal.

Japanese Marry Young. It is stated that not one bride was over twenty-two years old in the 345,590 marriages in Japan last year.